

**Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)**

**10:00-13:00, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**BEIS, 1 Victoria Street, London**

**Present:**

Stephen Speed

Umran Nazir  
Bruce McKirdy

David Batters

Peter Welch  
Robert Williams  
Penny Fox

**Chairman** - Director Civil Nuclear & Resilience,  
Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) &  
GDF SRO  
GDF Programme Director, BEIS  
Managing Director, Radioactive Waste  
Management Ltd (RWM)  
CFO Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA),  
Chair, RWM Board  
Head of Programme for Waste Management (NDA)  
Welsh Government  
GDF Communications Project Board Chair, BEIS

**Attendees:**

John Corderoy	RWM Programme Director
Ann McCall	RWM Siting and Engagement Director
RWM Chief Policy Adviser	RWM Team
RWM Project Manager	RWM Team
BEIS Policy Lead	BEIS GDF Team
GDF Programme Manager	BEIS GDF Team
GDPB Secretariat	BEIS GDF Team
Professor Campbell Gemmell	Deputy Chair Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) – Observer

**Item 1 – Welcome and Chair’s Opening Remarks**

1. The Chair welcomed several new attendees to the Board: Penny Fox, BEIS Comms, Peter Welch, NDA; Ann McCall and John Corderoy, RWM and Professor Campbell Gemmell, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM).

**Item 2 – Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting**

2. The minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Board were agreed and will be published on the GDPB web pages of the Gov.uk website. All actions were complete or in hand.

**Item 3 – Programme Reporting Updates**

3. Risk Report - The GDF (Geological Disposal Facility) Programme Manager presented the programmes top three risks and reported that there was no change since the previous meeting. The delivery body provided an update and had met with Cabinet Office (CO) and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) in September to discuss the potential applicability of CO controls to the procurement of suppliers to provide community support, including grant administration. Both pre and post-launch procurement options were discussed, with a CO and BEIS preference for the latter. RWM is now pursuing the post-launch procurement option and updating plans to reflect this.
4. The Board agreed that the refreshed Programme Business Case not being ready for consideration by the Major Projects Review Group next year was a strategic risk and that it should be added to the monthly Programme Risk Report.
5. The Programme Manager also advised that a strategic risk review is being planned.

6. The Working with Communities (WWC) policy and the National Policy Statement on Geological Disposal Infrastructure (NPS) both received Cabinet Committee approval to go to consultation on their respective proposals.
7. The delivery body advised that the Business Case for Project 2 Community Engagement and Site Evaluation was in development and expected to be completed before the end of the year. It was agreed to consider the timing of the assurance and approval routes of both business cases at the next GDPB meeting.
8. It was reported that RWM transformation was progressing with the recruitment of the new RWM Advisory Council almost complete. The RWM Advisory Council replaces the previous RWM Technical Advisory Panel and will provide wider advice to the delivery body on areas that will assist with the siting process, such as socio-economics, stakeholder engagement and how to work successfully with local authorities. The development of the Programme Management Office function continues with external assistance being provided to help scope the requirement. Progress towards becoming a SLC (Site Licence Company) is on track with the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency.
9. The Welsh Government reported that their draft consultation document was undergoing translation and is expected to be ready for consultation in the Autumn.

#### **Item 4 – Siting and Engagement Strategy and Siting and Implementation Plan**

10. The RWM Siting and Engagement Director presented the proposed Siting and Engagement Strategy to the Board, this was discussed and approved. This high-level strategy sets out how RWM will deliver a suitable site in a willing community and consists of three main strands: Awareness Raising and Stakeholder Engagement, Engagement with Communities and Evaluation of Potential Sites. It was agreed that members would provide comments on the Siting Implementation Plan (SIP) outside of this meeting and would return for approval at a future meeting. RWM advised that the SIP was also going to be renamed to the Siting Overview Document.

#### **Item 5 – GDF Programme Scope**

11. The board had a discussion concerning the scope of the GDF programme to ensure that relevant external interdependencies with the GDF programme are understood and factored into the programme management. This was particularly pertinent to other NDA projects. It was agreed that the NDA would provide regular updates to GDPB so that this could be monitored.

#### **Item 6 – Integrated Communications and Engagement**

12. BEIS Communications explained to the Board that a new GDF Communications & Engagement Project Coordination Group had recently been established to bring NDA, RWM and BEIS communications teams together to ensure that all GDF Communications were joined up. This Project Coordination Group will engage across Whitehall and provides a structure for reporting to GDPB, Cabinet Office and the Government Communications Service. It was agreed that reports from the GDF Communications & Engagement Project Coordination Group should be added as a standing item on the GDPB agenda.

#### **AOB**

13. There were no items of AoB so the Chairman thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.

14. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2017.